

Claim 30 (new): The method of information processing as claimed in claim 25, wherein the second area includes a purse block, the purse block being reserved for storing data that is subtracted and added and has a plurality of access levels associated with the plurality of provider apparatuses.

Claim 31 (new): The information processing as claimed in claim 26, wherein the second area includes a purse block, the purse block being reserved for storing data that is subtracted and added and has a plurality of access levels associated with the plurality of provider apparatuses.

REMARKS

This Response is submitted in response to the Final Office Action dated April 13, 2007. A Request for Continued Examination ("RCE") is submitted herewith. Claims 16, 20, 25 and 26 have been amended. Claims 28-31 are newly added. No new matter has been added.

35 USC § 102 Rejections

The Office Action rejects claims 16-27 under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by Watanabe et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,734,568). Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 16, 20, 25 and 26 have been amended to traverse such rejection.

Claim 16 now reads, in relevant part, "the second area size being based on subtracting the first area size from the size of the memory section and the first area size being based on the number of provider apparatuses." Claims 20, 25 and 26 contain similar language. The amendments are fully supported by the specification. For example, see the specification at paragraph 123, stating in part, "For example, as shown in FIG. 4, when the memory space is constructed by 256 blocks and eight providers are registered, 246 (=256-10) blocks except for a total of 10 (= 1+ 1+ 8) ... are used as user blocks." Where 10 is the total number of system, or first area blocks, and 246 represents the number of second area blocks.

Having the size of the second area be variable based on the number of provider apparatuses is beneficial in that it allows for greater utilization of resources.

The index areas of the reference Watanabe do not store information related to provider apparatuses and therefore do not meet the limitations of "access right data for one of the plurality of provider apparatuses associated with the area definition block," or the first area size being based on the number of provider apparatuses as is claimed and fully supported by the specification. For example, see Watanabe in FIG. 5 showing the contents of an index area. The index area of Watanabe merely provides security level and size information for the associated memory area. Additionally, Watanabe fails to disclose or suggest the second area size being based on subtracting the first area size from the memory section size.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that Claims 16, 20, 25, and 26, and Claims 17-19, 21-24 and 27 that depend therefrom are patentably distinguishable and in condition for allowance.

New Claims

Claims 28-31 are newly added. Claims 28-31 read, in relevant part, "wherein the second area includes a purse block, the purse block being reserved for storing data that is subtracted and added and has a plurality of access levels associated with the plurality of provider apparatuses."

The new claims are fully supported by the specification. For example, see the specification in paragraph 133-134 stating, "When the purse block permission of the above area definition block is set such that the purse block is to be used, a read/write block having a logic block number of 00H is used as the purse block. The purse block is utilized when data are often added and subtracted and it is not desirable to read already stored values (since a possibility of information leakage is increased)."

The reference Watanabe does not disclose or suggest the use of a purse block.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that Claims 28-31 are patentably distinguishable and in condition for allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge deposit account 02-1818 for any fees which are due and owing.

Respectfully submitted,

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